

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 4, 2016

The Jasper County Board of Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, Richard E. Maxwell, and James A. Walstra. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Kimberly K. Grow; Deputy Auditor, Donna J. Horner; Highway Engineer / Supervisor, Jack R. Haberlin and the Attorney who represents the Commissioners, Eric Beaver. The meeting was called to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Patrick Donnelly, Veteran Service Officer.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint Kendell Culp as President of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint James Walstra as the Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM & ALLOWANCE DOCKET: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the Payroll Claim & Allowance Docket for the check date equal to December 30, 2015. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Culp requested that a sentence under the "Ambulance Services for 2016 & 2017 / Bid Discussion" be rewritten for better clarification. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 7, 2015 with the correction. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the following buried cable permits submitted by CenturyLink. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CENTURYLINK:

ACT #15210157 For the purpose of replacing 25 pr ca that cannot be repaired in Barkley Township. There is tile in the area. (Permit #711)

ACT #3255 For the purpose of a permit to cut into driveway, or use Jasper County right-of-way at CR 700W in Union Township. (Permit #712)

NEWSPAPER DESIGNATION FOR 2016: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve designation of the Rensselaer Republican and Kankakee Valley Post News as the two (2) newspapers to use for publishing legal notices for 2016. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

NEW POSITION / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: William Wakeland, Director / Community Corrections, requested permission to establish the new position of Evidence Based Practice Coordinator/Assistant Director. This position will require a Bachelor's Degree with the applicant being either a Probation Officer or able to become eligible to be a Probation Officer within 6 months of being hired. Mr. Wakeland stated that we are seeking funding for this position as part of the new Department of Correction grant. If we do not receive the funding for this position through the state grant, Mr. Wakeland plans to seek Council approval to have the position established next year. In response to a question from Mr. Culp, Mr. Wakeland replied that the grant will pay for the salary, PERF, Medicare and Social Security. Mr. Culp expressed concern that healthcare will not be covered. In response to another question, Mr. Wakeland replied that we will know in April whether or not we will be receiving the grant money. Mr. Culp suggested that the grant application be submitted with the healthcare costs included.

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NEW POSITION / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CON'T: Mr. Wakeland stated that he will need a Letter of Endorsement for the State Grant Application. We currently receive \$117,764.00 from the State which is only 16% of our budget. The money is currently used to pay for two (2) full-time employees and 2/3 of the salary of a third employee. What we are proposing is the new position plus moving two (2) more Correctional Officers along with the remaining 1/3 of the other Correctional Officer out of the County General Fund and into the State Grant. The request will be for a little more than double of what we currently request.

Mr. Wakeland stated that once the sixth full-time position is filled, we will need to hire another officer to refill the part-time position. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the filling of the soon-to-be vacant part-time position. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PORTER COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / AGREEMENT: Mike Spangler, Chief Probation Officer, explained that we have a detention contract with Lake County and Porter County as well as two (2) beds with Muskegon River Youth Camp. On December 14, Muskegon notified Mr. Spangler by email that they were closing down. The juveniles were transported to Porter County where we currently only have one bed. A new agreement with Porter County was submitted for approval. The new agreement gives us two (2) beds at 200 days total. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the new agreement with Porter County. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

VOLUNTEER POLICY / ANIMAL CONTROL: Attorney Beaver has reviewed the application included within the volunteer policy. The County has a rider on the liability policy that provides volunteers with workmans' compensation coverage; therefore, Attorney Beaver suggested that the Release Waiver Forms not be used. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the amended volunteer policy for Animal Control. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PROPOSED STAFF RESTRUCTURE / ANIMAL SHELTER: At the December 21 meeting, Pauline Boring submitted a "Proposed Staff Restructure" for consideration and approval. A full-time Shelter Manager was requested. The shelter currently has one (1) full-time and two (2) part-time employees. Mr. Culp expressed concern regarding the amount of health insurance that the county is paying per employee. We don't think that we can substantiate another full-time officer position at the shelter to do shelter work. The 2016 budget was reviewed. Two (2) full-time positions have been budgeted for 2016. The amount budgeted for the second full-time position could be transferred into the part-time line allowing for additional part-time help. After further discussion, Mr. Sinclair requested permission to hire an additional part-time Animal Control Officer as well as to keep the current Kennel Assistant. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

SECURITY LIGHTS / ANIMAL SHELTER: Mark Sinclair, Animal Control Director, submitted a quote in the amount of \$1,800.00 from Valade Electric for the replacement of all six (6) security lights. Due to the cost, we could cut that amount of lights down to two (2). The front of the building and the side of the building where the dog kennel is located are the two main areas that need to be lit up. To purchase one (1) light from Kirby Risk would cost \$346.00. This cost does not include installation. Mr. Sinclair also suggested the possibility of having the City of Rensselaer install a security light. The cost would be \$3.00 per month. It will cost approximately \$100.00 to install a pole, if needed. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the security light through the City of Rensselaer. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CONTROLS PROJECT / COURTHOUSE: Tom Alstott, EMCOR, reported that they would begin work on the controls project at the Courthouse next week with the crews beginning around 6:00 a.m. The plan is to get the structure in place before we do any changes in control valves to allow for a smooth transition. The project should take approximately eight (8) weeks to complete.

At this time, there was a short break.

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SHERIFF / SHIFT COVERAGE: Sheriff Risner reported that one of his deputies, who is also a National Guardsman, will be deployed later this summer. He will be required to attend two months of training beginning later this month. Sheriff Risner requested some leeway to use some certified officers to cover shifts. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

SHERIFF / RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TOWER: Sheriff Risner stated it was our understanding that Mr. Schultz would build the access road to the tower site as the property owner and that the county would then maintain the road. According to Mr. Schultz's attorney, the county is responsible for the access road. Ryan King, E911 Coordinator, stated that Mr. Schultz is committed to building the road; however, he wants clarification on his conversation with his attorney and the Commissioners in regards as to who is actually going to be responsible for the road. Mr. Culp stated that the county would be willing to maintain the access road.

SHERIFF / MAINTENANCE: Sheriff Risner also reported that Harry Carney, Maintenance, has been out with hand surgery; therefore, the needed maintenance has not been taken care of. We have been experiencing some plumbing leaks as well as some other issues. There is no other alternative but to reach out to an outside vendor. There is money available within the jail maintenance fund.

FROST LAW / ORDINANCE: Attorney Beaver reported that he has drafted an ordinance for the frost law. The intention of the law is that it would be in place January 15 through April 14 every year. Mr. Maxwell asked if manure hauling would be included under the section "implements of agriculture when used during farming operations are excluded"? Attorney Beaver stated that he will check the statute to see what the definition is. Mr. Maxwell replied that, if possible, he would like that excluded. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve **Ordinance No. 01-04-2016** commonly known as the Frost Law Ordinance for Jasper County. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. A notice of the ordinance will need to be advertised once each week for two consecutive weeks before it can take effect. Signs will need to be posted county-wide that include the dates and the weight limits at minimum. Attorney Beaver explained that there will be times when the law is not enforced. Public notice will be given during the times when the law will be enforced.

MOOLENAAR SUPREME: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the invoice as submitted by Moolenaar Supreme for lawn care at the Courthouse. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. The cost will include four (4) regular applications at \$195.00 each and one (1) application with grub at \$230.00 for a total cost of \$1,010.00.

INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION / LETTER: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve a letter to the Indiana Gaming Commission giving permission to the Jasper County Fair Association to use the county owned premises located at 2671 W. Clark St., Rensselaer, for their bingo fund raiser. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

SPRING MEETING & SEMINAR / TREASURER: Carla Anderson, Treasurer, requested permission for Tammy McEwan and Kimberly Mathew to attend the Indiana County Treasurers' Association spring meeting. The meeting will be held on March 2, 2016 in Plainfield. The cost of the registration is \$25.00 per person for a total of \$50.00.

Also requested was permission for Tammy McEwan to attend the SRI Tax Sale Seminar on March 18 in Indianapolis. There is no registration cost. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve both requests. The county car will need to be used. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PROMPT AMBULANCE CENTRAL / CONTRACT: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the ambulance contract with Prompt Ambulance Central, Inc. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

WHEATFIELD AMBULANCE SERVICE / CONTRACT: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the ambulance contract with Wheatfield Ambulance Service. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

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KEENER TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE SERVICE / CONTRACT: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the ambulance contract with Keener Township Ambulance Service. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

SOUTHERN JASPER COUNTY COMMUNITY AMBULANCE SERVICE / CONTRACT: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the ambulance contract with Southern Jasper County Community Ambulance Service. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

COUNTY DUMPSTERS: Mr. Haberlin gave a report on the number and the cost of each county dumpster. Further discussion will take place at the February meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

Alcoholic Beverage Commission: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the reappointment of Craig L. Stevens to a one-year term on the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Animal Control Board: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Marissha Mathew, Loretta M. Sipkema, Pauline Boring and Dr. Janice Mallory to a two-year term on the Animal Control Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Arrowhead Country RC&D Commission: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Lou Nagel Jr. to a four-year term on the Arrowhead Country RC&D Commission. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Daniel W. Reed to a four-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Land Application Board: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Daryl King, Gerald L. Grube, and Norris E. Barnett to a one-year term on the Citizens Advisory Committee on Land Application Board. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Community Correction Advisory Board: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint John Bryant and Guy Skrobel to a four-year term on the Community Correction Advisory Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Courthouse & Annex Custodians: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Bud Justice as the Head Custodian and Harry Carney as the Assistant Custodian. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

County Attorney: Mr. Walstra made the motion to appoint Eric Beaver as the County Attorney. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Fair Board: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Richard Maxwell to the Jasper County Fair Board. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Health Board: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to appoint Christopher Louck to a four-year term on the Health Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Highway Department: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to reappoint Jean Witherington as the Bookkeeper and Gail Ackerman as the Assistant Supervisor & Clerk of the Highway Department. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

IT Director: Mr. Walstra made a motion to reappoint William Batley as the IT Director. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Jasper County Redevelopment Commission: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Travis Gutwein, Anne Cecile Egan, and Timothy Donnelly to a one-year term on the Jasper County Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

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APPOINTMENTS CON'T:

Jasper County Tourism Commission: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Linda Abramson, Eric VanKley and Jamie Miller to a two-year term on the Jasper County Tourism Commission. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Vince Urbano and James A. Walstra to a one-year term on the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Kankakee River Basin Commission: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint James A. Walstra to a one-year term on the Kankakee River Basin Commission. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Kendell Culp to the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District and Rein Bontreger as an Alternate Board Member to the District. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Steve Jordan as an Alternate Board Member to the District and Richard Maxwell to the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Michael W. Murphy and Heather Hall to the Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Plan Commission: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Todd Peterson to a four-year term on the Plan Commission. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Planning & Development: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Mary Scheurich as the Director and Kelli Standish as the Secretary of Planning & Development. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Ronald Mosier, Donald Putt and Mary Swanson to a one-year term on the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Rensselaer Advisory Plan Commission: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Mike Davis to a four-year term on the Rensselaer Advisory Plan Commission. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Rensselaer Disabilities Commission: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Merrie Etta Stowers to a one-year term on the Rensselaer Disabilities Commission. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Review Board for Common Nuisances: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Scott Barton to a one-year term on the Review Board for Common Nuisances. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Sick Leave Bank: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Kim Grow, Auditor; Richard Maxwell, Commissioner; and Jack R. Haberlin, Highway Engineer/Superintendent, to the Sick Leave Bank. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Veteran Service Officer: Mr. Walstra made the motion to reappoint Patrick Donnelly as the Veteran Service Officer for Jasper County. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Water & Sewer Board: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint James Walstra to a three-year term on the Water & Sewer Board. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Northwest Indiana Workforce Board: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reappoint Kendell Culp to the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board as the LEO (Local Elected Official). Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

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There being no further business, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to continue the meeting until Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. on an as needed basis only. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Kendell Culp, President

James A. Walstra, Vice President

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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